



January 24, 2012

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the U.S. footwear industry – from U.S. footwear manufacturers to U.S. footwear brands and retailers – we are writing to urge you to co-sponsor and support Congressional passage of the Senate-version of the *Affordable Footwear Act* (S. 1069), introduced by Senators Maria Cantwell and Roy Blunt.

This Senate legislation is supported by domestic producers and importers. Approximately 99 percent of all footwear sold in the United States today is imported, and more than \$1.9 billion in duties is paid every year. With mark-ups at the wholesale and retail level, those \$1.9 billion in duties translates to \$6 billion at the retail level.

S. 1069 is commonsense and bi-partisan legislation that would eliminate about a third of those duties, in particular the duties paid on lower- to moderately-priced and children's footwear no longer made in the United States. S. 1069 does not eliminate duties on certain rubber, plastic, and other footwear still manufactured in the United States.

Therefore, on behalf of the U.S. footwear industry and the million plus U.S. workers we support, we again urge you to co-sponsor and to urge quick Congressional passage of the Senate-version of the *Affordable Footwear Act* (S. 1069).

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Burke
President & CEO
American Apparel &
Footwear Association (AAFA)

Matt Priest
President
Footwear Distributors and
Retailers of America (FDRA)

Frank Hugelmeier
President & CEO
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)

Marc Fleischaker
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